

Pastoral Care Background

1. Sherborne Preparatory School was founded in 1885 at its present site in Acreman Street. Until June 1998, the School was privately owned, most recently by the Lindsay family.

On June 19, 1998, the School passed over to a company as Sherborne Preparatory School Inc and on 11 September, 1998 was listed as a Charitable Trust. A Board of Governors is now responsible for the running of the School and for the appointment of the Headmaster.

2. Boy boarders are housed in the main house, Acreman, and girls in Netherton.

3. The School is affiliated to the Church of England. All children receive at least one lesson of Religious Education per week. There is a morning Assembly on five mornings each week, on the other mornings forms have time with their form teachers. There is a Sunday Service for boarders. On certain occasions, there is a visiting preacher who conducts the Harvest Festival and Easter services. Parents, relatives and friends are welcome to join us for these occasions.

4. It is accepted that not all children are practising Christians, but the policy of the School is to provide a foundation of instruction in the Christian way of life which will provide a basis and inspiration for the children throughout their lives.

5. The Christian philosophy of the School underlies the approach to boarding. Sherborne Prep has a boarding tradition and the staff are constantly aware of the enormous responsibility of providing for the needs of boarders and of the trust placed in them by parents.

6. The School endeavours to provide a safe and stable environment in a beautiful setting which is an inspiration in itself. There are first class facilities for academic work, the arts and sport. There are many opportunities for children to develop personal interests and every encouragement is given to achieve a high level of excellence in as many fields as possible.

7. Classes are relatively small making regular individual attention possible. Time is allocated for supervised preps for boarders and day-children may also elect to stay. This allows children to learn to work on their own.

8. Pastoral Care is a high priority. Importance is placed on providing guidance and support and yet allowing the children to develop independent attitudes and to 'stand on their own feet'. The School operates an effective Form tutor system whereby each form has time with its tutor on a daily basis so that children feel that they can confide in the tutor when necessary. Children from year 6 also choose a pastoral tutor from amongst the school staff. This is someone who they feel able to talk to. Each child is allocated to one of the four 'houses': Romans, Normans, Greeks and Trojans, for the purposes of encouraging healthy competition in various areas such as athletics and merit points. Besides teaching staff, the Headmaster, his wife, Senior Staff, the three matrons, gap year students, the School Doctor and the independent counsellors are always available to provide and support for the children.

9. There is a healthy and positive atmosphere about the School. Good manners are encouraged at all times. High standards are demanded so that the children develop their own self-discipline. All staff are expected to be firm, fair and friendly.

10. Good communication and access between children, staff and parents is seen as being part of our success as a boarding school. Although children are discouraged from going out on the first Sunday of term, in order to allow a reasonable period of time to settle in and establish themselves, parents are welcome at the School at any time and in particular at the Sunday Services, School matches, concerts, plays and lectures. There are regular parent/staff meetings and parents often make appointments to

discuss their children's progress with the headmaster or other members of staff. We allow boarders to accept invitations to visit their day-children friends, with parental permission, at weekends. Children are encouraged to write letters home on Sundays and they enjoy receiving letters and parcels. We operate a flexible boarding system so parents can ask for their children to be able to flexi-board subject to confirmation with House Master and House Mistress.